NZ TRANSPORT AGENCY
WAKA KOTAHI

Tauranga Eastern Link

Project update February 2014

Summer progress update and focus for 2014

Great weather over the summer means good progress has been made on the Tauranga Eastern Link (TEL). The project site has been a hive of activity since the last update in October 2013, with a number of milestones reached. These included the traffic switches between Te Maunga and Mangatawa, the TEL family open day, the completion of a further two of the seven bridges, the re-opening of Maketu Road, the re-alignment of Te Tumu Road and pavement construction between Domain Road and Bell Road.

The focus for the project in 2014 includes; the construction of the Parton Road bridge and the Domain Road interchange, completion of the drainage and mowing boat culverts, continued construction of pavement and landscaping.

Mangatawa interchange

The final Mangatawa interchange MSE (mechanically stabilised earth) wall has been completed, with surcharge assisting the settlement of the ground beneath the embankment.

Domain Road interchange

Construction of the first of three lightweight fill embankments started in November 2013.

TEL family open day November 2013

The public got to see first-hand the work undertaken over the past three years and were able to drive down a section of the new road to the Kaituna River bridge.

Maketu Road bridge

In November 2013, the Maketu Road bridge was completed and Maketu Road re-opened.

East Coast Main Trunk (ECMT) rail bridge

The ECMT rail bridge was also completed in November 2013.

The TEL toll story

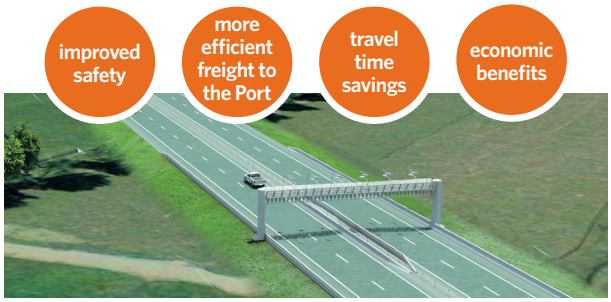
Construction of the TEL was able to be brought forward due to the community's support to toll the road. Construction started in November 2010 and is on schedule for a late 2015 completion. The TEL is the largest state highway project in the Bay of Plenty and is recognised by the government as one of the seven roads of national significance.

The highway is made up of two sections; the first six kilometres is upgrading the existing State Highway 2 from Te Maunga roundabout (near Baypark) to Domain Road in Papamoa; the remaining 17 kilometres is the tolled section which runs from Domain Road to Paengaroa, at the intersection of State Highway 2 (SH2) and State Highway 33 (SH33).

The electronic toll gantry will use cameras and sensors to identify a vehicle's registration plate and assign the correct toll tariff. The toll tariff will depend on the size of the vehicle. For cars and light vehicles the toll will be between $2.30 and $2.50 and for trucks it will be between $5.50 and $6.00 (based on future CPI increases).

Internationally, the trend for toll roads is to move to free-flow electronic collection and centralised collection processes. The Transport Agency is focused on providing a number of options to make paying the toll easy. Details of the toll collection system, payment methods and final toll prices will be available later this year.

As an alternative to the tolled route, drivers can still use the existing highway through Te Puke.



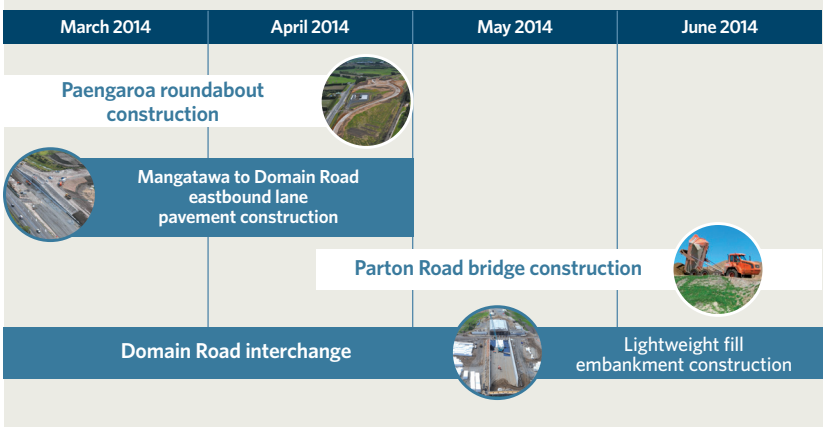
Pavement construction

The pavement (or road) construction journey on TEL is well underway.

The road is typically made up of four layers; the subgrade layer is sand or ash, the subbase layer is crushed local stone strengthened with cement, the basecourse layer is either crushed local stone strengthened with bitumen and cement or structural asphalt and the final surface layer is asphalt.

Much of the TEL already has the first layer in place and the second and third layers have been applied to sections of the road, between Te Maunga and the Kaituna River. With over 100 lane kilometres to be laid in 2014/15 the pavement crew will be kept busy.

Proposed construction programme for the next four months



Road layout changes ahead

The face of the TEL will be changing significantly over the next few months with a number of traffic switches planned to take place in autumn.

SIGN UP

TEL weekly traffic impact report

To receive our TEL weekly traffic impact report go online to:

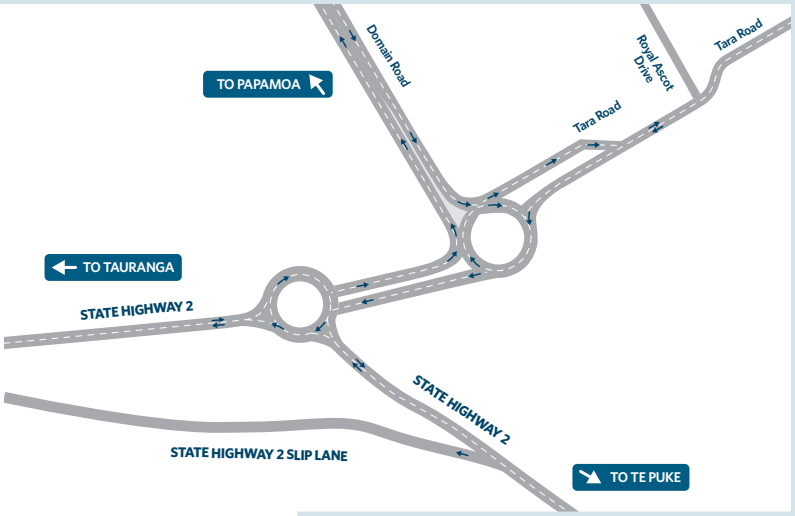
www.nzta.govt.nz/tel-mailing-list

March 2014

Domain Road interchange and Tara Road roundabout

The existing Tara Road / Domain Road intersection will be removed and all traffic (travelling to the Domain Road roundabout from Papamoa) will be switched onto the new roundabout.

Domain Road traffic will be moved onto the new southbound lanes to allow for the existing Domain Road to be removed and the new northbound lanes (heading to Papamoa) and water retention ponds to be constructed.



NEW TEMPORARY ROAD LAYOUT (MARCH 2014)

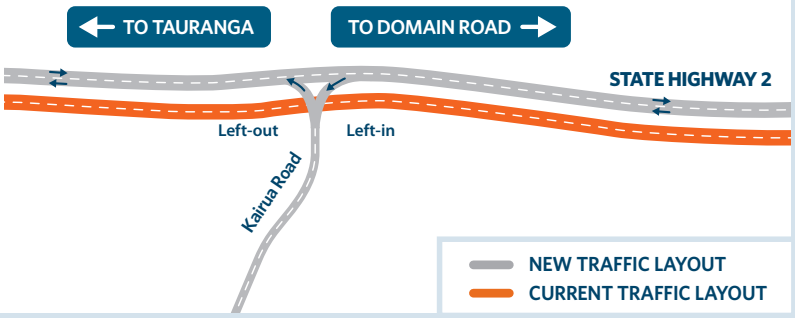
Autumn 2014

SH2 from Te Maunga to Domain Road

Traffic will be switched onto the new eastbound lanes (between Mangatawa and Domain Road) to allow for the construction of the westbound lanes (heading to Tauranga).

Changes to the Kairua Road and SH2 intersection

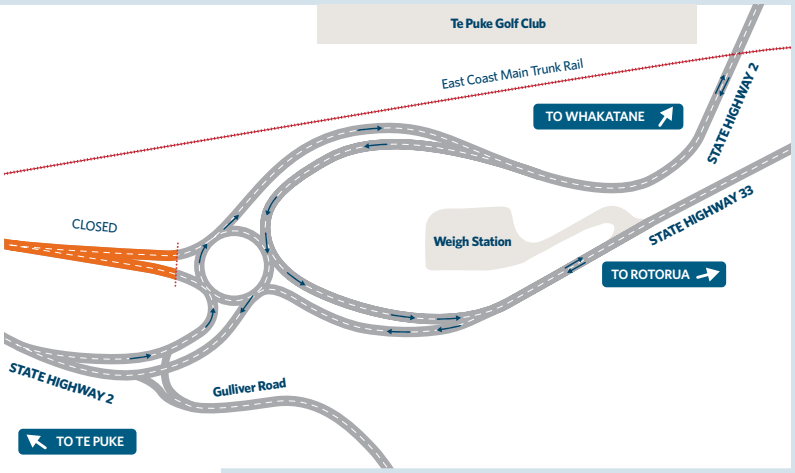
Kairua Road will become a left-in and left-out only intersection at SH2. Therefore Kairua Road traffic will no longer be able to make right-hand turns from SH2 into Kairua Road or from Kairua Road onto SH2.



Autumn 2014

Paengaroa roundabout

The Paengaroa roundabout is a two lane roundabout with dual entry and exit lanes on all legs. It will replace the current SH2 / SH33 T-intersection.



Visit us at the TEL Visitor Information Centre
65 Tara Road, Papamoa. Monday to Friday 8.00am to 4.30pm.

View the TEL from above
A 45 minute walk from the Papamoa Hills Regional Park car park will take you to the summit where binoculars have been installed, providing a view of the majority of the TEL.

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